

OUR POST BOX.



WE owe our thanks to Captain Murray, A.D.P.S., for the following very enlightening article, and we hope that as this is the first contribution to our magazine from the Postal Corps it will not

be the last, and that others of that confraternity will send along copy for publication.

I was asked by your Editor to contribute to the very excellent magazine published by the 49th Battalion. At first I was not very sure that my style was good enough to keep pace with the high standard set by others whose names I see mentioned, but after due consideration I thought of that old saying, "Nothing attempted, nothing done," and decided that I would write a little something, and as my line of business runs on one of the most important items in the men's lives in this country, namely, mail, there could be nothing more appropriate than that subject.

As perhaps readers will know, all mail handled for the Canadians is done so through the agency of the Canadian Postal Corps, and members of this Corps are all Civil Postal employees who have left their civil employment to serve the Motherland in their own special sphere.

Mail for the Canadians is always heavy, more so, of course, in the months of December and January, and a few figures will prove what I have said:—

The number and weight of bags of mail received at railheads for December was 34,223, weighing approximately 686 tons. Those sent away were as follows:—5,546, weighing 111 tons. Postal notes sold amounted to 73,917 francs 30 centimes. Postal notes cashed amounted to 10,358 francs 50 centimes. Stamps to the extent of 11,387 francs 60 centimes were sold. 14,056 registered letters were delivered to the various units. 12,038 registered packets were received from the various units, and the approximate number of letters handled daily runs into the large amount of over 63,000.

The above figures will prove that the work performed by this corps is no sinecure when it is remembered that there are only

about 150 persons actually engaged in handling mail, and the care that is taken is exactly the same as is taken in any civil post office, and members of the C.P.C. accept the same responsibility.

Also, one might point out that the soldiers of the Canadian Forces are not very great squanderers of money when we see the amount of postal orders bought, for the amount of those received and cashed is only one-seventh of those sent away. Work of this kind is very interesting, insomuch as it reveals the true nature of men, shows that even though they are daily risking their lives for the good of the Motherland, they also think of those who sit at home and wait, daily scanning the papers and praying that those they love will not have their names in the casualty lists. Thousands of the "Health Cards," as the boys nickname the Field Service postcards, are daily sent away; and in conclusion I can but say to all and sundry, "Write home and let the folks know that you are well. We are at your service, and will always do all in our power to facilitate the mail service for the Canadian boys."

CAPTAIN MURRAY, A.D.P.S.,
Canadian Postal Corps.



THE LIGHT THAT FAILED.

"Gott strafe—(hic)—these patent eidget—
lighters—(hic)—anyway!!"